

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /129 W

----- 130727

R 021453Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO COMSECONDFLT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7176

CINCLANTFLT

CNO

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

COMCRUDESANT NORVA

USS NEWPORT NEWS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3651

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR MARR NO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF USS NEWPORT NEWS

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES VISIT OF USS NEWPORT NEWS TO OSLO
OCTOBER 10-15. US NAVAL PRESENCE IN SCANDINAVIAN WATERS
HAS BEEN MINIMAL THIS YEAR AND YOUR VISIT WILL PROVIDE
EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE NATO SOLIDARITY AND
REMIND NORWEGIANS THAT NORTHERN FLANK NOT FORGOTTEN.

2. WITHOUT WISHING TO OVERDRAW THE SITUATION WE NOTE THAT
FORTHCOMING VISIT IS POTENTIALLY SENSITIVE AND ASK YOU
TO BE AWARE OF FOLLOWING TWO RELATED ASPECTS:

(A) THIS IS FIRST US NAVAL VISIT TO OSLO SINCE THAT OF
USS INCHON (SEPT 29-OCT 4, 1972), A VISIT MARRED BY
FIGHTING AND ACCUSATIONS OF THEFT, ASSAULT AND RAPE BY
AMERICAN SERVICEMEN ON LIBERTY. RESULTANT PUBLICITY
ERODED MUCH OF WHAT US NAVY AND EMBASSY HAD HOPED VISIT
WOULD ACHIEVE.

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(B) USS NEWPORT NEWS WILL ARRIVE DURING WEEK WHEN NEW

MINORITY LABOR GOVERNMENT EXPECTED TO TAKE OVER FROM NON-SOCIALIST COALITION. LABOR PARTY, WEAKENED BY POOR SHOWING AT POLLS, WILL HAVE TO COPE IN NEW STORTING (PARLIAMENT) WITH SIXTEEN RECENTLY ELECTED, ANTI-NATO, ANTI-DEFENSE SPENDING MEMBERS OF LEFT WING SOCIALIST ELECTION ALLIANCE. ANY UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY RESULTING FROM USS NEWPORT NEWS VISIT AT THIS DELICATE JUNCTURE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE DISPROPORTIONATE, NEGATIVE IMPACT ON US IMAGE, FUTURE SHIP VISITS AND US EFFORTS TO BOLSTER PRO-NATO, STRONG-DEFENSE ELEMENTS IN NORWAY.

3. EMBASSY PREPARED TO COOPERATE FULLY AND RENDER ASSISTANCE AS REQUIRED TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL VISIT. USDAO HAS SUGGESTED TO NORWEGIAN LIAISON OFFICERS THAT CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES ACCEPT UNSPECIFIED NUMBER SHORE PATROL PERSONNEL TO AUGMENT LOCAL POLICE FORCES. NO RESPONSE FROM NORWEGIANS RECEIVED TO DATE.

4. COMPLETE INFORMATION RE LOCAL AMUSEMENTS AND ORGANIZED TOURS HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO FACILITATE WELL-DESERVED SHORE LEAVE AND CREW REST.

5. EMBASSY LOOKS FORWARD TO SUCCESSFUL VISIT OF USS NEWPORT NEWS CONFIDENT OF TRADITIONAL OUTSTANDING NAVY PERFORMANCE. BYRNE

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